GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2019
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Underground Coal Gasification
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) Technology developed in the country for meeting the future energy needs;
(b) the details of coal and lignite blocks identified so far for this purpose; and
(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise this technology in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) technology has not been developed in India.

(b): Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) in consultation with organizations like Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Director General of Mine Safety (DGMS), Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has identified following 7 blocks (5 lignite & 2 coal) for this purpose.

A. Lignite Blocks

1. Sindhari West, Barmer,Rajasthan
2. ChoklaNorth,Barmer,Rajasthan
3. Nimbalkot, Barmer,Rajasthan
4. Nagurda, Barmer,Rajasthan
5. Dungra,Surat,Gujarat

B. Coal Blocks

1. Yellendu(Dip Side)-SCCL
2. Bandha-Singrauli Main Basin

Further, CMPDI has also identified 2 blocks within Coal India Limited (CIL) areas namely, Kaitha in Ramagarh Coalfieldunder Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Thesgora"C" in Pench-Kanhan Coalfield under Western Coalfields Limited (WCL).

(c): In India the work related to development of UCG was initiated in early 80's by Coal India and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) separately with Soviet Experts. While CIL/CMPDI activities were confined to the coal seam having shallow occurrence whereas ONGC took up the studies in areas having

occurrence of coal/lignite in deeper horizon., A Science &Technology (S&T) pilot project at Merta Road Lignite Deposit was taken up by the CIL/CMPDI for ascertaining the techno-economic viability of the project. However, on apprehension of contamination of groundwater, the project could not be pursued further.